

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AMARILLO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JESSE RAY MEDRANO-SILVA,

Defendant.

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2:22-CR-10-Z-BR-(1)

ORDER

Before the Court is Defendants unopposed Motion for Psychiatric and Psychological Examination (“Motion”) (ECF No. 21). Defendant requests the Court order a psychiatric or psychological examination of Defendant pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 4241(a), 4242(a), and 4247 to determine:

1. Whether the Defendant is presently suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him, or to assist properly in his defense; and
2. Whether the defendant, at the time of the alleged criminal conduct, suffered from a severe mental disease or defect which rendered him unable to appreciate the nature and quality of the wrongfulness of his acts.

See ECF No. 21. Because the Court finds reasonable cause to doubt the Defendant’s mental fitness, the Motion is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**.

Section 4241 Examination

18 U.S.C. § 4241(a) provides that “[a]t any time after the commencement of a prosecution for an offense and prior to the sentencing of the defendant, . . . the defendant or the attorney for

the Government may file a motion for a hearing to determine the mental competency of the defendant.” The court must grant the motion or order a hearing on its own “if there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant may presently be suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense.” *Id.*; *see also United States v. Messervey*, 317 F.3d 457, 463 (5th Cir. 2002). Section 4241(b) provides that, before the hearing, “the court may order that a psychiatric or psychological examination of the defendant be conducted, and that a psychiatric or psychological report be filed with the court, pursuant to the provisions of section 4247(b) and (c).”

The Court **ORDERS** that Defendant be committed to the custody of the Attorney General for placement in a suitable facility closest to the Court, for a period not to exceed 30 days, unless such period is extended for good cause shown pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4247(b). A psychiatric or psychological examination of Defendant shall be conducted by an examiner qualified in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 4247(b). The examiner shall thereafter file a report with the Court and provide copies to the attorney for the Government and the attorney for the Defendant, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 4247(c). The purposes of the examination are to determine Defendant’s *competence to stand trial*, pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 4241. The report should include, among other things, the examiner’s opinions about whether Defendant is suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense. 18 U.S.C. § 4247(c). All costs of this examination shall be paid by the Department of Justice.

The Court will convene a hearing if, after receipt of the report, it determines on its own, or if either the attorney for the Government or the attorney for the Defendant contends by written motion supported by the report and/or by other factual grounds, that there is reasonable cause to believe that defendant may presently be suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 4241(a).

Pending completion of the proceedings related to the psychiatric or psychological examination addressed above, the deadline for pretrial motions and trial setting contained in the most recent scheduling order are hereby vacated. The Court will set a new deadline for pretrial motions and a new trial setting, if necessary, after the completion of the proceedings related to the psychiatric or psychological examination.

It is further **ORDERED** that Defendant's counsel and the Government may provide any and all medical reports concerning the condition of the Defendant and documentary information concerning the offense charged, to the examiner. All documentation provided to the examiner by one party shall be copied and provided to the other party.

The United States Marshal shall transport the Defendant to the designated hospital facility. Defendant's arraignment and detention hearings are postponed until the matter of Defendant's competency is resolved.

Section 4242 Examination

The Court cannot grant Defendant's Motion seeking examination pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4242(a). Section 4242(a) provides:


Upon the *filing of a notice*, as provided in Rule 12.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, that the defendant intends to rely on the defense of insanity, the court, *upon motion of the attorney for the Government*, shall order that a psychiatric or psychological examination of the defendant be conducted, and that a psychiatric or psychological report be filed with the court, pursuant to the provisions of section 4247(b) and (c).

Because Defendant has not yet filed a Notice of an Insanity Defense pursuant to Rule 12.2, the Court will not at this time grant the part of the Motion requesting an evaluation of whether Defendant was legally insane at the time of the commission of the alleged offense.

For the reasons stated above, Defendant's motion is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. The Court will consider any future motion requesting an evaluation of Defendant pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4242 if Defendant complies with the directives of 18. U.S.C. § 4242 and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12.2.

SO ORDERED.

March 7, 2022.



MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE